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25 April 1956

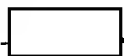


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1. SOVIET LEADERS ATTACK WESTERN DISARMAMENT VIEWS

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[REDACTED]

The British delegate to the UN Disarmament Subcommittee, Anthony Nutting, told his Western colleagues on 23 April that on the basis of discussion thus far

with Bulganin and Khrushchev on disarmament, the Russians appear to be "fed up" with the subcommittee and are very suspicious of the Western position. The Soviet leaders charged that the American aerial inspection proposal was designed to photograph the USSR for target and espionage purposes.

Bulganin and Khrushchev said they had omitted nuclear disarmament from their 27 March proposals because previous discussion had proved it was impossible to solve the problems of nuclear and conventional arms simultaneously. The Soviet leaders showed no interest in any partial approach to disarmament and insisted that the Western powers had complicated the disarmament problem by retreating from their earlier positions.

Nutting concluded that he believes the USSR wants disarmament but not control and, therefore, does not want an arms agreement.

Comment

The Soviet leaders' remarks on the aerial inspection proposal show no change in the views Khrushchev expressed in his Supreme Soviet speech on 29 December in which he charged that aerial photography amounted to military reconnaissance and claimed that such a plan "can only fan war passions and war psychosis."

The omission of nuclear disarmament provisions from the Soviet 27 March plan apparently was intended to create an impression that the Soviet position is moving closer to that of the West, particularly that of the United States, by offering a separate agreement in the field of conventional arms, where the USSR has superiority. The Soviet leaders probably believe such ostensible concessions to Western views will lead Western governments, under the pressure of public opinion, to curtail military spending and reduce armed forces even in the absence of an arms agreement.

**2. KHRUSHCHEV SAYS SOVIET ARMS TO YEMEN MEANT
TO HARASS BRITISH**

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Khrushchev told Foreign Minister Selwyn Lloyd on 21 April that as long as Great Britain supports the Baghdad pact, it must expect the

USSR to take measures, such as arms sales to Yemen, to cause maximum annoyance to Britain. Khrushchev made the statement in answer to a question from Lloyd as to why the Soviet Union was selling arms to Yemen when those arms could only be used against the British in Aden.

Comment

Khrushchev's statement, like the Soviet Foreign Ministry statement of 17 April, serves notice that Soviet tactics in the Middle East will not be changed without a quid pro quo from the West. The Soviet leaders have repeatedly attacked the Baghdad pact as being anti-Soviet.

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5. MOROCCAN NATIONALIST PROBES AMERICAN ATTITUDE ON AIR BASES

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Ahmed Balafrej, secretary general of the Moroccan nationalist Istiqlal party, has asked the American consul general in Rabat what attitude the

United States government would take if the Moroccans desired to open direct talks on "military subjects" after the appointment of a Moroccan foreign minister. Balafrej indicated that the sultan was now considering the matter.

Comment

The Moroccan government is likely to press soon for a renegotiation of the 1950 bilateral American-French agreement which permitted the building of the four strategic air bases in Morocco. The Moroccans hope that American payments for the continued use of these bases will partially cover Morocco's annual financial deficit which will probably run between \$142,000,000 and \$200,000,000 in the future. Heretofore, these deficits have been covered by French subsidies and loans.

The Moroccans probably also hope to use an early agreement with the United States as a lever for bargaining during the forthcoming financial and economic negotiations with France, which were recently postponed at the request of the Moroccan government.

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 24 April)

Three Israeli water engineers and their driver were ambushed and killed on the Beersheba-Eilat road near the Jordan border. [REDACTED]

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Syria has announced that it has agreed to a cease-fire on the Syrian-Israeli border on condition that Israel pledges to respect the resolutions of the UN Security Council. A UN resolution in 1953 requested Israel to cease activities at Banat Yacov pending an agreed solution. [REDACTED]

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Egypt, according to press and radio reports, has "presented" arms worth a half a million pounds (\$1,400,000) to the Sudan, including tanks, armored cars and other vehicles, and light arms and ammunition. [REDACTED]

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